

## 2011 YMCA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

In a series of weekend and evening trials between February 26 and March 7, 2011 the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual YMCA High School Mock Trial Competition was sponsored by the King County Superior Court. The event, combining civics education and drama, was a district level competition leading up to the state championships to be held in Olympia March 25-27.

This year's fictional case involved timely issues of police use of deadly force. After a street encounter in which a K-9 officer fatally shot an individual who turned out to have been unarmed, the officer stood charged, alternatively, with murder or manslaughter. The defense of justifiable homicide focused the trial issues on whether or not the officer acted with a good faith reasonable belief that he or she was in imminent peril. As the mock trial participants were preparing to argue both sides of their case, tragic real life events were playing out in the local press and the courts and the students became well equipped to participate thoughtfully in the public debate.

The High School Mock Trials are a program of YMCA Youth & Government. Besides the YMCA, the program receives support from various lawyers and judges associations and is also dependent on hundreds of volunteer hours. The trials were presided over by King County Superior Court Judges **Beth Andrus, Monica Benton, Tim Bradshaw, Susan Craighead, Richard Eadie, Michael Heavey, Bruce Heller, Hollis Hill, Phil Hubbard, Dean Lum, Harry McCarthy, Carol Schapira, and Chris Washington** and retired Superior Court Judges **Donald Haley and Doug McBroom**, King County District Court Judge **Eileen Kato**, Black Diamond Municipal Court Judge **Bill Bowman**, Seattle Municipal Court Judge **Steve Rosen**, Administrative Law Judge **Nicole Gaines** and Judge Pro Tem **Bill Fligeltaub**.

In addition to the twenty-one judges, the trial performances were rated by sixty-three volunteer lawyers who gave generously of their time and talents. Championship round scorers were Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Melinda Young, prominent criminal defense attorney David Allen and King County Bar Association President Mark Fordham.

The popular and growing event ran smoothly thanks to the administrative help of Ricki Reese, Cameron Reese, Debra Bailey Trail, Stevie Craig, Kelly Sheridan, Daniel Shickich, Sgt. Al Hampton, Kirby Pierce, Judge Dave Larson, Fang Sae-Lee, Anna Downing and Sam Downing.

As always, each one of the hundreds of student participants went home a winner with all that was learned about the rules of society and about his or her own abilities. Congratulations to all!

This year's King County Champion is University Prep. They, along with teams from Eastside Catholic, Franklin, Seattle Prep, Garfield, The International Community School, Mercer Island and Seattle Academy, will all advance to the State Competition.

Here are the final official results of the downtown competition:

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>WINS</b>	<b>BALLOTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
1. University Prep – A	5	14	
2. Eastside Catholic – S	4	13	
3. Franklin – T	4	10	1954
4. Seattle Prep – F	3	10	1975
5. Seattle Prep – E	3	9	2004
6. Seattle Academy – H	3	9	1900
7. Int'l Comm. School – N	2	7	1816
8. Garfield – L	1	4	1718
9. Seattle Prep – G	1	3	949
10. University Prep – B	1	3	943
11. Seattle Academy I	1	3	927
12. Int'l. Comm. School – O	1	2	929
13. Bush – R	1	2	821
14. Nathan Hale – J	1	1	952
15. Nathan Hale – K	0	0	943
16. University Prep – C	0	0	902
17. Chief Sealth – Q	0	0	831
18. University Prep – D	0	0	820
19. Jefferson Comm. Ctr. – P	0	0	816
20. Garfield – M	0	0	793

A separately conducted tournament conducted at the Federal Way Municipal Court was won by the Mercer Island teams that then advanced to join in the later rounds of the downtown competition and to qualify for the state tournament. In the “South King County” event, the following teams all participated impressively:

Mercer Island	2 wins, 6 ballots
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Bellevue	2 wins, 6 ballots
Kent-Meridian	1 win, 3 ballots
Kentlake	
Kentwood	
Todd Beamer	

In the King County championship round, these special awards were given out:

Outstanding Attorney: Nitika Arora

Outstanding Witness: Jenny Singer

In the earlier rounds, the following students also received special recognition:

**Outstanding Attorneys:**

Bush School: Sam Lai

Chief Sealh: Molly Freed

Eastside Catholic: Lauren Auerbach, Kate Benecke, Tennley Noble, Michael Orehek

Franklin High School: Emma Levy, Alexandra Ricks, Madeleine Smither

Garfield High School: Max Kee, Samantha Montarbo, Summer Than

International Community School: Nish Behrman, Abby Burlingame, Erika Bykov, Meghan Dingman, Jessica Jin, Sai Paul, Zach Shucklin

Jefferson Community Center: Minh Kuu

Mercer Island: Martin Ho, Theresa Wang

Nathan Hale High School: Joe Blythe, Sophia Brandon, Lena Easton-Calabria, Isaac Stockdale

Seattle Academy: Brynn Arborico, Henry Chaffee, Elif Koc, Rachel Liddell, Murray McCulloch, Kristina Sokourenko, Jacob Stonecipher

Seattle Prep: Pierre Albi, Maxwell Bertollotti, Rachel Chacon, Alexandra Dullea, Nora Genster, Matthew MacVicar, Molly Miller, Dylan Moorleghen, Christina Payne, Michael Rochford, Tierney Vial

University Prep: Nitika Arora, Denzel Belin, Allie Belyaev, Ben Bonci, Kaustubh Deo, Priyanka Jain

## **Outstanding Witnesses:**

Bush School: Liz Parker, Thomas Russell

Chief Sealh: Lee Barrientos, Zair Blue, Jacob Cargal-Bley

Eastside Catholic: Michael Abraham, Maddie King-Foster, Colin Timm

Franklin High School: Antwon Mitchell, Angela Pham, Jenny Pham, Juan Ponce, Alexandra Ricks, Aren Roberson

Garfield High School: Hallie Huffaker, Alex McLean, Matthew Paley, Lucas Smith

International Community School: Madison Cox, Adam Davis, Clare De Young, Lucas Inn, George Stearn, Sophie Szilagyi, Nihal Thapa

Jefferson Community Center: Cindy Liu, Patricia Flores Perez

Mercer Island: Jacob Aboulafia, Jamie Jiang, Jennifer Lai

Nathan Hale High School: Ben Hirshberg, Kelsey Radwick, Mia Terry

Seattle Academy: Alisha Agard, Brynn Arborico, Rachel Liddell, Kristina Sokourenko, Alan Swanson

Seattle Prep: Kevin Bocek, Rachel Chacon, Riley Coleman, Joseph Eusebio, Michael Fanning, Matthew Herring, Nina Leff, Matthew Mallick, Alexander Monroe, Michael Rochford, Casey Schmidt, Otto Steckler, Nathan Tollner

University Prep: Tejal Angolkar, Aarti Chandorkar, Amanda Ng, Carrie Rotkis, Jenny Singer, Ian Wong

For more information about the YMCA High School Mock Trial Program in King County, call (206) 296-9362 or email the District Convener Judge William Downing at [william.downing@kingcounty.gov](mailto:william.downing@kingcounty.gov)